

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01773 111458Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13 /085 W  
-----112239Z 125668 /73

R 111351Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2110  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMCON MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1773

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, RO  
SUBJ: CEAUSESCU PRESS CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE  
REF: BUCHAREST 1732

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL JOURNALISTS PRESENT AT HIS MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, CEAUSESCU, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT FATIGUED, HANDLED HIMSELF WELL. MANY WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS OBVIOUS CONCERN FOR SITUATION, CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO INDEPENDENCE, AND DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN AND EVEN EXPAND COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CONFERENCE WAS CARRIED PRACTICALLY UNALTERED ON ROMANIAN TV SAME EVENING. END SUMMARY.

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2. INITIAL REPORTS FROM SOME OF THE OVER 200 JOURNALISTS (FOREIGN AND ROMANIAN) PRESENT AT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE ARE THAT CEAUSESCU, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY WEARY, HANDLED HIMSELF QUITE WELL. THIS WAS FIRST SUCH MEETING WITH ASSEMBLED FOREIGN PRESS WHICH WE CAN RECALL SINCE NOVEMBER 1974 VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER HERE, AND LATTER WAS

ON MUCH SMALLER SCALE.

3. EVEN SEVERAL EXPERIENCED REPORTERS WHO CAME PREPARED TO BE CRITICAL, E.G. VIKTOR MEIER OF FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG AND PAUL HOFFMAN OF NY TIMES SAY THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY APPARENT CONCERN AND COMPASSION WHICH CEAUSESCU PROJECTED. OTHERS WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS AGILITY IN DEFLECTING DELICATE QUESTIONS SUCH AS THAT REGARDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS (REFTEL). COMMENT: THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER WERE CARRIED ON ROMANIAN TV AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IS FIRST DIRECT REFERENCE TO A SPECIAL US INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN OR HEARD IN ROMANIAN MEDIA). CEAUSESCU ALSO DEFTLY HANDLED QUESTION ON GOLDEN COLORADO SEISMOLOGICAL CENTER REPORT GIVEN TO GOR BY US. HE NOTED THAT EXCHANGE OF SUCH INFORMATION WAS NORMAL, ALTHOUGH INTERPRETATIONS OF DATA MAY DIFFER AND CRITICIZED SOME PRESS AGENCIES FOR THEIR EXAGGERATION OR AMPLIFICATION OF REPORT. THOSE JOURNALISTS WE HAVE TALKED TO WERE ALSO IMPRESSED BY CEAUSESCU'S OBVIOUS DETERMINATION TO FULFILL AND EVEN SURPASS CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN GOALS, INCLUDING FOR CONSUMER GOODS, AS WELL AS HIS CONSTANT REFRAIN THAT SUCH A RECOVERY COULD ONLY BE DONE BY AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

4. CONFERENCE WAS LATER CARRIED ON ROMANIAN TV. ONLY CHANGE WAS VOICING OVER OF QUESTIONS AND IN A FEW CASES THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWERS, ALTHOUGH THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE REPORTED IN FULL.  
BARNES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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